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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/856,657	05/24/2001	Yukihiro Sumida	1035-324	3157
23117	7590	10/30/2003		
NIXON & VANDERHYE, PC 1100 N GLEBE ROAD 8TH FLOOR ARLINGTON, VA 22201-4714			EXAMINER CHOWDHURY, TARIFUR RASHID	
			ART UNIT 2871	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/856,657

Applicant(s)

SUMIDA ET AL.

Examiner

Tarifur R Chowdhury

Art Unit

2871

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 72-148 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 72-93,97-113,116,118,119,121-141 and 148 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 94-96,114,115,117,120,142,143,146 and 147 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 144 and 145 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/07/03 has been entered.

Specification

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Drawings

3. Figures 42(a) and 42(b) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 94, 96, 115, 117, 120, 141, 142 and 147 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kawaguchi et al., (Kawaguchi), EP 0 866 264 A1.

5. Kawaguchi discloses (abstract; col. 1, lines 45-57) and shows in Fig. 1, a lighting system comprising:

- a planar light guiding body (16) having a light incident surface (16b) to which light from a light source unit is incident, and an end surface opposing to the light incident surface;
- the light source unit disposed on a surface opposing to the light incident surface of the planar light guiding body; and
- sheet-state converting means (19) disposed in such a way that at least a part thereof opposes the light source unit while at least a part thereof opposes the light incident surface, for converting the light from the light source unit into a linearly emitting state by making the light from the light source unit become incident to the light incident surface again,

wherein the planar light guiding body converts light in the linearly emitting state into a planarly emitting state.

Accordingly, claims 94, 120 and 142 are anticipated.

As to claims 96, 115 and 147, Kawaguchi also discloses (abstract) that light source unit is composed of a point source light such as an LED (applicant's dot light emitting source) and that the converting means is reflecting means (col. 2, lines 27-32).

As to claim 117, Kawaguchi also discloses that a liquid crystal display comprising the lighting system (col. 1, lines 3-6) and the liquid crystal display element displaying an image by controlling, at each pixel, light outgoing from the light outgoing surface of the planar light guiding body.

As to claim 141, Kawaguchi also shows in Fig. 1 that the light incident surface (16b) and an end surface opposing the light incident surface are respectively side surfaces of the planar light guiding body (16), the side surfaces respectively having plane directions, which cross a plane direction of a light outgoing surface (16a) of the planar light guiding body (16).

6. Claims 95, 114, 143 and 146 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawaguchi as applied to claims 94, 96, 115, 117, 120, 141, 142 and 147 above and in view of Takeshi et al., (Takeshi), JP 09-160032.

7. Kawaguchi differs from the claimed invention because he does not explicitly disclose that the converting means is a diffusing means.

Takeshi discloses a linear light guiding body (22) that is surrounded by a diffusing sheet (30) (Fig. 7). Takeshi also discloses that the diffusing sheet helps to obtain nearly uniform illumination all over the light transmitting part (abstract).

Takeshi is evidence that ordinary workers in the art of liquid crystal would find a reason, suggestion or motivation to modify the converting means of Kawaguchi into a diffusing means by employing a diffusing sheet around the linear light guiding body so that nearly uniform illumination all over the light transmitting part is obtained, as per the teachings of Takeshi.

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Accordingly, claims 95, 114, 143 and 146 would have been obvious.

Allowable Subject Matter

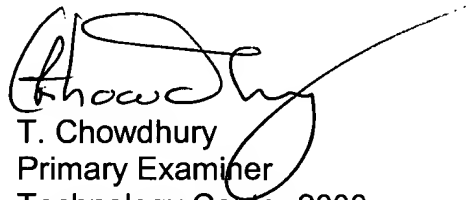
8. Claims 72-93, 97-113, 116, 118, 119, 121-141 and 148 are allowed.
9. Claims 144 and 145 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tarifur R Chowdhury whose telephone number is (703) 308-4115. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:30-5:00) Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Kim can be reached on (703) 305-3492. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.


T. Chowdhury
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800

TRC
October 29, 2003